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Environment and sustainable development

Tajikistan and Russian Federation: draft resolution

Status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/196 of 20 December 2000, in which it proclaimed 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater,

Recalling also chapter 18 of Agenda 21[1] relating to protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources, as well as chapter 13, entitled "Managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development", and taking into account that 80 per cent of accessible freshwater originates in mountains,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 53/199 of 15 December 1998 on the proclamation of international years,

Reaffirming the target of reducing by half, between 2000 and 2015, the proportion of people who lack sustainable access to adequate sources of affordable and safe water,[2]

Noting the preparations for the Third World Water Forum, to be held at Kyoto, Japan, in March 2003, and the elaboration of the World Water Development Report,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003,[3]

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] A/54/2000, para. 281, and United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), para. 19.

[3] A/56/189.

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1. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by Governments, United Nations organizations, especially those represented on the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination,[4] and non-governmental organizations in preparation for the observance of the International Year of Freshwater, especially as regards awareness-raising, and encourages them to continue and expand their efforts;

2. *Encourages* all States, the United Nations system and other actors to take advantage of the International Year of Freshwater to raise awareness of the strategic importance of achieving sustainable development and use of the freshwater resources of the world, which are essential for satisfying basic human needs, health and food production, economic and social development and the preservation of ecosystems, and to assign high priority to the formulation and implementation of action-oriented policies and programmes for the sustainable use of freshwater for social and economic purposes;

3. *Also encourages* all States, national and international organizations, major groups and the private sector to support local, national and international programmes and projects for the International Year of Freshwater, inter alia, through voluntary contributions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session an interim report on the activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003.

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[4] The status of the Subcommittee is currently under review as part of the reform of the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination as a whole.